



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, September 28, 2005

CONTACT: Stephen Hourahan
202-224-6167

SENATOR CHAFEE ANNOUNCES HOMELAND SECURITY AWARDS FOR RHODE ISLAND'S FIREFIGHTERS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee, a member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, today announced \$354,421 in Homeland Security grant awards to three Rhode Island fire departments. The Nasonville and West Greenwich Fire Departments will be the recipients of the grant as well as the South Foster Volunteer Fire Company.

The funds are distributed by the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness, and be used to purchase new vehicles, as well as for updates to equipment, wellness and fitness programs, and modifications to fire stations and facilities.

"I am happy these funds have been made available to ensure our state's firefighters have the most effective and up-to-date vehicles and equipment possible," Senator Chafee said. "As a member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I will work diligently to ensure that Rhode Island's firefighters continue to receive support to protect themselves and the people of our state. I am pleased that the Bush Administration continues its commitment to making first-responder funding a priority," he continued.

Of the total funding, the Nasonville Fire Department in Harrisville has been awarded \$238,450 for the purchase of a new, fully loaded, multi-purpose, all wheel drive tanker truck. The truck will replace the Department's current 1972 tanker truck, which is rapidly deteriorating and no longer fully functional. This versatile new truck can be used in a variety of situations, including urban and rural settings, and can be utilized for brush and conventional fires. Additionally, the truck will hold approximately 2,000 gallons of water, which is critical as the area served by Nasonville does not have fire hydrants. The tanker will also have the ability to provide drinking water to citizens in the event of a

disaster, and will be used regionally to help other cities, towns, and states to respond effectively in the event of an emergency situation.

The South Foster Volunteer Fire Company will receive an award totaling \$102,125 for the purchase of a new air filling system for firefighters' oxygen packs. The packs are worn in a fire to allow firefighters to breathe clean air while surrounded by smoke. This apparatus will allow the department to fill the oxygen packs with purified outside air.

West Greenwich Fire Department will use the remaining \$13,846 for training, protective equipment, and modifications to fire stations and facilities.

Additionally, Senator Chafee has been notified that the Pawtucket Fire Department as been awarded \$112,596 from DHS. The funding will be used for the procurement of voice amplifiers for better communications inside fires, two thermal imaging cameras to detect hotspots and fallen firefighters from outside a burning building, and for the purchase of a larger diameter hose, to increase the pressure and speed of firefighting water.

Chafee was also notified that Exeter Volunteer Fire Company No. 2 has received a DHS grant totaling \$63,650. With the funding, the Company will purchase 30 pairs of turnout gear, which includes coats, pants, boots, helmets, and gloves, which will protect firefighters when combating fires. Additionally, a thermal imaging camera and 8 portable radios will be purchased to enhance visibility and communication between firefighters during a fire.

###